

**13.015 Off-Highway Vehicle Operation (VC §38025)**

Motor vehicles identified as off-highway vehicles may be operated or driven upon a highway **only** as follows:

- On a two-lane highway only to cross the highway which is closed to motor vehicles subject to registration commencing with VC §4000.
- Only to cross at designated places on-highways with more than two lanes.
- Towed (**not** driven) upon a highway provided the vehicle displays a valid OHV identification plate.
- Motorcycles may be pushed (**not** ridden) upon a highway provided the vehicle displays a valid OHV identification plate.
- Racing or competitive motorcycles displaying a Motorcycle Transportation Permit may be transported upon a highway to and from racing events on a closed course. Refer to Section 25.075 for Motorcycle Transportation Permit.

To be transported on the highway, an OHV **must** have OHV identification, regular vehicle registration or a Motorcycle Transportation Permit.

**NOTE:** 2003 and newer year model OHVs that **do not** meet California's OHV emissions standards (non-complying OHVs) are limited to operation during designated months only. Refer to Section 13.030 for information.

**13.020 Fee and Penalty Assessment (VC §38225, 38.225.4, 38225.5, 38230, 38245–38246, 38255, 38260, and 38265)**

OHV registration expires June 30 of the second year after the fee became due. The assigned expiration date will be an odd or even numbered year as determined by the year of original registration and it **does not** change. (VC §38115) For example:

- An original OHV registration in 2004 expires June 30, 2006.
- An original OHV registration in 2005 expires June 30, 2007.

Refer to the Fees appendix, Appendix 1F, for OHV fees. The fees **must be paid before** the OHV is operated and/or transported in this state or it is delinquent.

(VC §38245) A penalty is added if the fee is not paid within 20 days of the date it became due. (VC §38246d)

- The renewal fee **must** be paid on or before the June 30th expiration date to avoid a penalty.
- The OHV fee is **never** prorated.
- The nonresident military exemption **cannot** be used for OHV registration/renewal.
- The OHV renewal fee **must be** paid on a registration or transfer application submitted between June 1 and June 30 of the OHV registration expiration year, and may be paid on these applications submitted between January 1 and May 31 of the OHV expiration year.

**13.020 Fee and Penalty Assessment, continued**

**Penalty for Delinquency (VC §§38245–38246 and 38265)**—If an off-highway motor vehicle subject to identification is operated or transported in California before the required fee is paid, that fee is delinquent. The penalty is 50% of the fee.

**EXCEPTION:** A penalty is not assessed when a transferee acquires an OHV and the OHV registration subsequently expires, and the transferee pays the renewal fees due within 20 days from the date of transfer.

**13.025 Requirements for Original Off-Highway Vehicle Identification**

**New Off-Highway Vehicle Sold by a California Dealer**—The requirements are:

- An Application for Registration of New Vehicle (REG 397) completed in the same manner as any other new vehicle sale. Refer to Chapter 1 for instructions.
  - Clearly mark “OHV” on **all** copies of the REG 397.
  - Show both the frame and engine numbers for a motorcycle.
  - Place the temporary operating copy of the REG 397 on the vehicle.
  - Mail the dealer notice portion of the REG 397 to the department’s Sacramento Headquarters not later than the fifth calendar day after the sale.
- The OHV identification fee. Refer to Fees Appendix, Appendix 1F, for fees.

**Nonresident Off-Highway Vehicle Sold by a California Dealer**—The requirements are:

- An Application for Title or Registration (REG 343).
- A vehicle verification. (Both the frame and engine numbers must be shown for a motorcycle.)
- The nonresident title or equivalent proof of ownership. Refer to Chapter 7 for additional nonresident vehicle information.
- A Report of Sale–Used Vehicle (REG 51).
- The OHV identification fee.

**NOTE:** Dual registration is required if the buyer insists on OHV identification for a vehicle operated in California in a manner which causes regular registration fees to be due. Refer to Section 13.055.

**Used Vehicles Sold by a California Dealer**—The requirements are:

- A completed Application for Title or Registration (REG 343).
- The properly endorsed Certificate of Title.
- A Report of Sale–Used Vehicle (REG 51).
- The OHV transfer fee.